

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 201615Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2499

INFO USUN NEW YORK 268

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 0181

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO PORG PLO SL

SUBJECT: ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE IN ILO AND AFRICAN LABOR MEETINGS

REF: GENEVA 263

1. EMBASSY FREETOWN HAS NOTED WITH INTEREST CONTENTS
REFTEL, PARTICULARLY OBVIOUS POSSIBILITY THAT EXTREME
ARABS MAY ATTEMPT USE AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE
IN FREETOWN LATE MARCH TO GAIN POSSIBLE SUPPORT FOR ANTI-
ISRAELI RESOLUTION AT ILO ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN JUNE, AND
HAS FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION TO SUGGEST.

2. WHILE THERE MAY BE LITTLE HE CAN DO ABOUT IT AS
PRESIDENT OF HOST COUNTRY, EMBASSY BELIEVES SL PRESIDENT
STEVENS WOULD BE DISTINCTLY UNHAPPY IF FREETOWN BECAME
WIDELY PUBLICIZED IN WORLD MEDIA AS SITE OF MAJOR EFFORT
IN ANY ANTI-ISRAELI CAMPAIGN BY RADICAL
ARABS, PARTICULARLY SHOULD IT BE SUCCESSFUL. GOSL
AND STEVENS HIMSELF DISAPPOINTED AT ARAB NIGGARDLINESS
TOWARD BLACK AFRICAN STATES IN USE OF OIL REVENUES
FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AFTER GOSL, AMONG OTHERS,
WENT ALONG WITH ARAB DEMANDS AFRICANS BREAK RELATIONS
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WITH ISRAEL. RECOGNIZING THAT STEVENS MAY NOT BE ABLE

HAVE MUCH INFLUENCE ON OUTCOME FREETOWN MEETING, DEPARTMENT MAY NONETHELESS WISH CONSIDER INSTRUCTING AMBASSADOR AT APPROPRIATE MOMENT TO BRIEF STEVENS ON OUR READING ARAB INTENTIONS AND OUTLOOK FOR ARAB ACTIONS AT FREETOWN MEETING, ON BASIS OF WHICH IT POSSIBLE STEVENS MIGHT ATTEMPT USE HIS INFLUENCE WITH OTHER BLACK AFRICAN STATES TO HOLD RANKS AGAINST ARAB PLOY OR TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY TO SELECTED ARAB LEADERS. IF DEPARTMENT BELIEVES SUGGESTION HAS MERIT, WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS ON CONTENTS AND TIMING OF POSSIBLE BRIEFING.

3. IN VIEW POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE FREETOWN MEETING, EMBASSY ALSO WISHES RAISE QUESTION OF COVERAGE OF MEETING BY USG. THIS TINY EMBASSY, WHICH WILL BE UNDERGOING FS INSPECTION PRECISELY WHEN MEETING UNDERWAY, REGRETFULLY HAS NEITHER MANPOWER NOR AFRICA-WIDE CONTACTS TO COVER MEETING EFFECTIVELY. EMBASSY ASSUMES REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE INSKEEP FROM DAKAR WILL BE PRESENT DURING MEETING BUT WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED WHETHER DEPARTMENT PLANS SEND OTHER OBSERVERS FROM WASHINGTON, GENEVA OR ELSEWHERE. HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS FREETOWN EXPECTED BE FULLY UTILIZED BY DELEGATES AT TIME, BUT EMBASSY WILL DO BEST POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE BOTH INSPECTORS AND OBSERVERS AT EMBASSY STAFF RESIDENCES. WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING SCOPE OF PROBLEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER.

4. IF INSKEEP EXPECTED COVER OR HELP COVER FREETOWN MEETING, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH REPEAT REFTTEL, THIS MESSAGE, AND OTHER PERTINENT MESSAGES TO DAKAR FOR HIM.
SAMUELS

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